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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

AUG 15 1999

Reply To
Attn Of: OW-134

Megan White, Manager
Water Quality Program
Washington Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600

Megan
Dear Ms. White:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 10 is pleased to approve your Spokane River Dissolved Metals Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), submitted to us on June 9, 1999. By EPA's approval, this TMDL is incorporated into the State's water quality management plan under Section 303(e) of the Clean Water Act.

As described in your TMDL documents, controls on dissolved metals releases to the Coeur d'Alene Basin in Idaho will be needed to achieve water quality standards for metals in the Spokane River. As you know, EPA and the State of Idaho released a proposed TMDL for these waters in April, and we are currently receiving public comment on the proposal. In the meantime, the Washington Department of Ecology has taken an important step in this TMDL to establish protective metals allocations for municipal and industrial point sources on the Washington side of the border. These allocations assure that the sources in Washington do not contribute to or exacerbate water quality criteria exceedences in the river. The TMDL thus serves to both protect the river and reduce uncertainty about future metals restrictions in the Spokane River permits.

We wish to acknowledge the efforts of Greg Pelletier and Ken Merrill to coordinate this project with our staff. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (206) 553-1261 or Alan Henning at (206) 553-8293.

Sincerely,

Randall F. Smith
Director
Office of Water

THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

WASHINGTON, D.C.
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cc:

bcc: Adrienne Allen

CONCURRENCES						
Initials:	<i>UAH</i>	<i>TH</i>	<i>DOC</i>			
Name:	Henping	Hamlin	<i>Cope</i>			
Date:	<i>8/10/99</i>	<i>8/10/99</i>	<i>8/12/99</i>			